REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 21, 2007. Claims 25-27, 29-34, 36-41 and 43-45 are presented for examination, of which Claims 25, 32 and 39 are in independent form. Claims 1, 32 and 39 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regards as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested

Claims 25-27, 29-34, 36-41 and 43-45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, first paragraph, with special attention to the points raised in the Office Action. Support the amended displaying step/means recitation can be found in the specification on at least page 7, line 21 through page 9, line 3 and in Figure 3.

Claims 25, 31, 32, 38, 39 and 45 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ulead Systems, Inc., "PhotoImpact Version 3.0", Copyright 1992-1995 (English Edition, January 1996), pages 90-92 and 155-156 (PhotoImpact).

Claims 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 40, 41, 43 and 44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over PhotoImpact, as applied to Claims 25, 32 and 39, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,077,811 (Onda).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 25, 32 and 39 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 25 is directed to an image processing method for processing an input

document image. The method includes the steps of: (1) displaying an instruction input window to receive both of a first instruction and a second instruction from a user, wherein the instruction input window presents a plurality of checkbox groups each including a plurality of checkboxes, selection of only one checkbox being allowed for each checkbox group, and wherein the first instruction indicates, by selecting one of a plurality of checkboxes in a first checkbox group which includes a checkbox for auto discrimination of the document orientation and four checkboxes each for manual instruction of the document orientation corresponding to one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees, whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates, by selecting one of a plurality of checkboxes in a second checkbox group which includes a checkbox for auto tilt correction and a checkbox for no tilt correction, whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected; (2) determining, based on the first instruction corresponding to one of the checkboxes selected in the first checkbox group on instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually; (3) automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees if it is determined in the determining step that the user has instructed, by selecting the checkbox for auto discrimination, that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; (4) automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in the determining step that the user has instructed the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; (5) rotating the document image according to a rotation angle of one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees corresponding to the checkbox for manual instruction selected by the

user if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed, by selecting one of the four checkboxes for manual instruction, that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected; and (6) if it is determined based on the second instruction that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, automatically correcting the tilt of the document image which is rotated in the automatic rotating step or in the rotating step, wherein the automatic correction step does not execute automatic correction of the tilt of the document image which is rotated in the automatic rotating step or in the rotating step if it is determined based on the second instruction that the tilt of the document image should not be automatically corrected.

As shown in Fig. 3 of the specification,[1] the present invention displays an instruction input window which presents a plurality of checkbox groups each including a plurality of checkboxes. By selecting one checkbox in each checkbox group, switching can be readily performed between automatic and manual corrections of the document orientation and between automatic tilt correction and no tilt correction for the document.

PhotoImpact discusses a "Transform tool" feature at pages 155-156 for performing transformations including rotation processing for manually rotating an image. By actuating a "Transform tool" button on a Tool panel, several possible transformation options appear on an Attribute toolbar. PhotoImpact also discusses a separate Auto-Process feature with seven options (page 91). By clicking the Auto-Process button an a standard toolbar (which as Applicants understand it, is not displayed on a input window with the Tranform-tool button), an

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1/ It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of the described embodiments, which are referred to only to facilitate explanation.

Auto-Process dialog box opens containing the seven options, including a "Straighten" option, for straightening images. There is no separate option indicating "no-straighten." Further, no checkbox is disclosed in PhotoImpact, and no one input window exists for receiving both an Auto-Process and a Transform tool instruction.

While the Auto-Process "Straighten" option may provide for automatically correcting the tilt of an image, Applicants have found nothing in PhotoImpact that would teach or suggest "displaying an instruction input window to receive both of a first instruction and a second instruction from a user, wherein the instruction input window presents a plurality of checkbox groups each including a plurality of checkboxes, selection of only one checkbox being allowed for each checkbox group, and wherein the first instruction indicates, by selecting one of a plurality of checkboxes in a first checkbox group which includes a checkbox for auto discrimination of the document orientation and four checkboxes each for manual instruction of the document orientation corresponding to one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees, whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates, by selecting one of a plurality of checkboxes in a second checkbox group which includes a checkbox for auto tilt correction and a checkbox for no tilt correction, whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected," as recited in Claim 25 (emphasis added).

It follows, therefore, that PhotoImpact fails to teach or suggest at least "determining, based on the first instruction corresponding to one of the checkboxes selected in the first checkbox group on instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually,"

"automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed, by selecting the checkbox for auto discrimination, that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected," "automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected" or "rotating the document image according to a rotation angle of one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees corresponding to the checkbox for manual instruction selected by the user if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed, by selecting one of the four checkboxes for manual instruction, that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected," as recited in Claim 25.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 25 is not anticipated by PhotoImpact.

A review of the other art of record, including Onda, has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 25.

Independent Claims 32 and 39 are apparatus and computer-readable storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 25, and are believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 25.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention,

however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present continued application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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